

HAVERTOWN, PA—The most prestigious rank that a Boy Scout can earn is that of Eagle Scout. On Sunday, April 19, 2009, at Annunciation Blessed Virgin Mary Church in Havertown, Pa., that honor was awarded to Daniel Whitney of Troop 463 at a traditional Eagle Scout Court of Honor attended by Congressman Joe Sestak (PA-07) and Scoutmaster Tom Shannon.

The Court of Honor featured a recognition of the many achievements Daniel has already attained in his life. Daniel was born and raised in Havertown and is a senior at Haverford Senior High School, where he is an honor student and a lettered member of the golf team. Daniel began scouting in second grade, and has progressed steadily through the ranks, serving as the Troop's Senior Patrol Leader this summer. This fall, he plans to begin his studies at the University of Pittsburgh.

Congressman Sestak commended Daniel for his fine Eagle Scout project, for which he repaired and improved three area of Havertown's historic Grange Estate that was built in the 1600s. Daniel designed the project, devised a timeline, and obtained the necessary materials and tools. He led his fellow Scouts in widening a brick approach path for wheelchair access, improving the front path to the porch by edging it with Belgian block and planters, and building sturdy post-and-rail sides for a bridge over a stream.

"This nation is a nation of service, built on the foundation of commitment to the common good and prospering through our dedication to our neighbors, our country, and the world community," said Congressman Sestak. "I am proud to recognize Daniel for his fine work, his outstanding character, and his dedication to his community. The Scouts consistently produce many future leaders for this nation and its communities, and Daniel is another fine example. I join all of the residents of the 7th Congressional District in saluting Daniel, his troop, and, most importantly, his parents for all working together to raise such an outstanding young man."

Reaching the rank of Eagle Scout has always carried a special significance. Scouts that reach that level typically go on to success in higher education, and then to purposeful careers in business, industry, community service, and science. The award is a performance-based achievement whose standards have been well-maintained over the years. Only about 5 percent of all boys who join Boy Scout troops earn the Eagle Scout rank. Approximately 1.7 million Boy Scouts have earned the rank since 1912. The goals of Scouting—citizenship training, character development, and personal fitness—remain important for all Scouts, whether or not they attain the Eagle Scout rank.

*Born and raised in Delaware County, former 3-star Admiral Joe Sestak served in the Navy for 31 years and now serves as the Representative from the 7th District of Pennsylvania. He led a series of operational commands at sea, including Commander of an aircraft carrier battle group of 30 U.S. and allied ships with over 15,000 sailors and 100 aircraft that conducted operations in Afghanistan and Iraq. After 9/11, Joe was the first Director of "Deep Blue," the Navy's anti-terrorism unit that established strategic and operations policies for the "Global War on Terrorism." He served as President Clinton's Director for Defense Policy at the National Security Council in the White House, and holds a Ph.D. in Political Economy and Government from Harvard University. According to the office of the House Historian, Joe is the highest-ranking former military officer ever elected to the U.S. Congress.*

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